

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1-8(Cancelled).

9(New). A gasket comprising

a metal gasket plate,

an aperture through said plate, and

an annular flange formed as one piece of the same material as said metal gasket plate and in folded over surface-to-surface contact with an annular portion of said plate surrounding the aperture,

said annular flange providing a stopper seal around the aperture,

said annular flange having arcuately spaced areas of varying thickness and varying radial extent relative to said aperture, with relatively thicker areas of said annular flange having a relatively greater radial extent than that of relatively thinner areas of said annular flange.

10(New). The gasket of claim 9, wherein said plate has bolt-receiving holes spaced radially outwardly from said flange in arcuately spaced relation to one another, and the areas of said flange adjacent to said bolt-receiving holes are of said lesser thickness and said lesser radial extent than that of the areas of said flange more distant from said bolt-receiving holes.

11(New). A gasket comprising

a metal gasket plate,

an aperture through said plate, and

an annular flange,

said flange being in surface-to-surface contact with an annular portion of said plate surrounding the aperture and integrally connected as one piece of the same material to said annular portion by a doubled over connecting portion which defines an annular marginal edge of the aperture,

said annular flange providing a stopper seal around the aperture, and

said annular flange having arcuately spaced areas of varying thickness and an outer annular margin of varying radial extent relative to said aperture.

12(New). The gasket of claim 11, wherein said plate has bolt-receiving holes spaced radially outwardly from said flange in arcuately spaced relation to one another, and the areas of said flange adjacent to said bolt-receiving hole are of lesser thickness than the

**Appln. No.: 10/004,071**

**Amdt. Dated April 27, 2005**

**Reply to Office action of February 8, 2005**

areas of said flange more distant from said bolt-receiving holes.

13(New). The gasket of claim 12, wherein said annular portion of the gasket is of uniform thickness.